

Worksession

Agenda Item #	8
Meeting Date	July 11, 2005
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Discussion of Election Related Issues - Including Criteria for Selection of Election Judges and Selection of a Date for Reconvening the Nominating Caucus
Background	<p><u>Election Judges</u></p> <p>The Council's decision to use paper ballots with a hand count of ballots may create a need for more election judges than have been appointed to serve in the past. The City has required election judges to be registered voters living in the city. Judges have been prohibited from participating in campaigns in any way. In recent elections, judges were paid \$60. The chief judge was paid \$75. Judges have been provided breakfast, lunch and dinner. Judges have also been required to attend a training session prior to election day, but have not been compensated for the training.</p> <p>On July 5, 2005, Council discussed ideas for increasing the number of judges, including increasing the pay and relaxing the qualifications, but no final decision was made. In order for staff to advertise for judges, it will have to inform potential judges about qualifications.</p> <p>Council might want to consider the option of having extra judges on hand for the ballot count. If Council sets a new rate of pay for judges, consideration should be given to providing a prorated amount of pay for ballot counters. This would permit this option to be put in place if Council wishes to have additional judges on hand for counting ballots. Election judges are generally expected to serve during the entire day of election. Staff does not recommend that this be changed.</p> <p>Staff polled a number of municipalities on the pay and qualifications of election judges. The information is provided on the attached sheet.</p> <p><u>Nominating Caucus</u></p> <p>The Charter-mandated date for the Nominating Caucus is Tuesday, October 4. This date falls on Rosh Hashana. It would be helpful for staff in advertising the Nominating Caucus to have a date certain for reconvening the Caucus.</p>
Policy	<p>City Charter, Section 607 Conduct of Elections Generally</p> <p>(a) The Council, by ordinance, shall provide for said elections; shall designate in said ordinance a convenient polling place or places; shall appoint judges of election; shall designate the manner of holding said election; shall designate and provide the voting system to be used; and shall conduct said elections in accordance with the provisions of this section.</p> <p>(b) Elections shall be conducted by the judges appointed by the Council under the supervision of the City Clerk, and shall be held at some convenient place or places to be designated by the Council; any vacancy in the list of judges occurring</p>

	between their appointment and the election shall be filled by the Mayor. The polls shall be opened at 7:00 A.M. and closed at 8:00 P.M.
Fiscal Impact	Will depend on Council action relative to compensation for election judges.
Attachments	Sampling of Pay and Qualifications for Election Judges
Recommendation	<p>Compared to other jurisdictions, the City's compensation for election judges is low. Staff recommends that the pay for election judges be increased and that judges be compensated for the required training.</p> <p>Staff requests that the Council discuss and select a date to reconvene the Nominating Caucus.</p>
Special Consideration	The deadline for the August edition of the Newsletter is July 11 th . Space has been reserved for an announcement regarding the need for election judges.

Sampling of Pay and Qualifications for Election Judges*

Municipality	Pay	Qualifications
City of Salisbury	\$165-\$185 \$220 chief judge	The City of Salisbury contracts with Wicomico County to do their elections. Registered City and County voter, not hold public or political office, may not be a candidate, may not be a campaign manager or treasurer for a candidate or political committee.
City of Greenbelt	\$135 \$175 chief judge \$25 for training	No specific requirements for election judges (although the Board of Elections gives preference to residents)
Town of Rising Sun	\$75	Registered voters of the town. May not be actively involved in any candidate's campaign.
City of Bowie	\$100 \$125 chief judge \$10 for training	Registered voters in the City of Bowie. Judges may not participate in or contribute to the campaign of any candidate.
Federalsburg	\$75	Qualified voters.
Town of Berwyn Heights	\$100 election judge \$75 election clerk \$12 for training	Registered voters of the town. May not participate in campaigns.
City of College Park	\$11.47 per hour (must stay for the entire election)	
Montgomery County	\$100 - \$130 (for chief judge) \$20 for training	Registered voters in the state. Must not hold or be a candidate for office, or be a campaign manager or treasurer.

*Many of these communities have Boards of Elections who are also paid.